Capitol Comments

by Dan Daniel

WASHINGTON What Congress does, Congress can undo. Often it has been said, and lately we are seeing signs that it is also being done.

A great many proposals seem desirable when they come before the Congress for action. Almost all have worthy goals, and obviously all have the support of a majority present and voting, else they would not become law. But as often as not, by the time these laws are implemented, o u t r a g e o u s things have been done in the name of "the general welfare". Let me cite a few examples.

IN 1970, Congress passed the Clean Air Act, setting firm deadlines for achieving certain levels of cleanliness in the air, and pledging that through federal government action the air which is breathed by all Americans, wherever they may be, would be forced to ascending levels of purity. That is a noble ideal. But subsequent events have made it unattainable for an indefinite period.

Automobile manufacturers were mandated to remove polluting carbon monoxide from the atmosphere, and developed the catalytic converter, which emits an even deadlier gas. Of equal importance the converter seriously cuts into gasoline mileage, at a time when efforts are - or should be - directed at every possible conservation method. Congress is being bombarded by complaints about this, not from Detroit, but from the millions of Americans who must rely on the automobile, and who know full well why the family car will not go as far on a tank of gas as it once did. In that same legislation, the matter of industrial air pollution was addressed. Faced with the nearly doubling cost of installing stack scrubbers if they continued to burn coal, many industries turned instead to low-sulphur oil or to natural gas. Now the increasing cost of imported oil and the shortage of natural gas have made coal look more attractive as a fuel, but again there are Congressionally - created problems.

A recent federal court decision, based on the Environmental Protection Act, requires regional environmental impact statements from companies planning to mine coal on leased federal land, and if it is upheld by the Supreme Court, it could hold up the production of some 60 to 80 million tons of coal annually, according to the Bureau of Mines. Less than two years ago, when the plan for "Project Independence was under development, a production goal of 1.2 billion tons by 1985 was deemed reasonable. No more. It is anticipated that this year's production will be about 630 to 635 million tons. For purposes of comparison, that was the amount produced in 1947.

Still on the subject of energy use, it has been estimated that if American automobile manufacturers meet the gas mileage standards written into the Energy Conservation Act, the average driver will have a 75 percent greater chance of serious injury in an accident than is the case today. And that will bring conservation standards into conflict with the standards developed under the Highway Safety Act.

No wonder they call this place the District of Confusion.

Apparently one of the more successful programs sponsored by the federal government has been that for flood insurance, but even that is not without its thorns. There have been no reports of this sort of trouble in our own District, but in others there have been instances where individuals have been denied purchase and remodel loans by federally - guaranteed lending institutions, because the areas had been declared flood-prone and had declined to go along with the program. This is now under review to make it more realistic, and to see that the individual does not suffer injustice.

But Congress can and sometimes does correct its mistakes. Most recently in the case of Veterans Day it was determined to return to November 11 in 1978, following the sorry experiment with a floating Monday in October. And by doing absolutely nothing, another change favored by a majority of the people in our District will be corrected next year. For if Congress does not act to the contrary, Daylight Saving Time will revert to its prior April-to-October schedule.

Congress will of necessity have to drastically amend the Clean Air Act, and if reason can prevail, some amendments will be made in the Environmental Protection Act. Already, the Occupational Safety and Health Act has been amended modestly, but more can and should be done in that area.

In the House, there is accelerated attention to the oversight responsibilities of the Committees, as the public demands that changes be made. On the Senate side, a change in the Rules has been proposed which would require that no bill may be considered until outside auditors have determined that the language is clear and that there is some means for measuring effectiveness.

What Congress does, it can undo, and the signs are encouraging that this path will be more and more followed.

WHITE CHRISTMAS

CAN YOU GUESS WHERE the photograph above was taken? Maine? Vermont? Upper New York State? Actually, it was taken in what we have come to associate in our minds as "sunny California!" Photograph courtesy of The Oakland Museum, Oakland, California.

The romantic and beautiful snow scene above, so typical of Christmas and Santa's world, was taken in Loomis, California, about 1919.

Loomis is northeast of the capital city of Sacramento. Sacramento itself embraces the site on which Captain John A. Sutter, in 1839, arrived and started building the adobe house that became famous as Sutter's Fort. This seemingly undramatic act set the stage for the colorful and turbulent gold rush.

California is a land of stark contrasts. Tropical flowers bloom in mid-winter in the south, and oranges ripen within sight of snow-capped mountains. Only a few hours away from snow-covered ski trails, bathers run on sandy beaches.

The Sierra Nevada, the coldest part of the state, has experienced freezing temperatures even in the summer. Winters are long and severe and some of the peaks are snow covered all year. Although snow is nearly unknown in the valleys of the central and southern coast, at Tamarack, in the Sierra Nevadas, the yearly snowfall averages about 454 inches.

Early in 1960, the winter Olympic Games were held in Squaw Valley, high among the Sierra Nevada mountains. Athletes from about 30 countries competed.

Christmas in California has many moods —like its weather and geography. Spanish and Mexican traditions and customs flavor the holiday as well as those brought to the west, when the frontier was settled.

California's ever-growing population draws together at Christmas, in the spirit of peace and brotherhood that mark this holiday all over our great nation!

Gambling That Death Will Be Accidental

Blacksburg–In these days of widespread travel and the hazards that are involved, people often feel they should buy the double idemnity feature as a policy provision. This provides that the policy will pay double its face value in event of death by accidental means.

The cause of death has no bearing upon the need for a certain amount of life insurance cautioned Hilda Dailey, Virginia Tech Extension home management specialist. "Actually, the finances needed by the family if the cause of death is a lingering illness will probably be greater than if the cause were an accident," Dailey said. This is true particularly since the double indemnity provision applies only if the insured dies within a specified period (usually 90 days) from the time of an accident, she said.

"Sickness and accident insurance–not life insurance–should be the primary protection against costs of medical care, since these expenses will have to be paid whether or not the insured dies after an illness or accident," the Extension specialist cautioned. "From the standpoint of establishing a program of liife insurance, the double indemnity feature is unnecessary."

Statistically, it is not a better buy than the basic coverage which applies in event of death from any cause. "As a gamble, it may be a good buy for those who face many hazards, but the sensible thing for such individuals to do would be to reduce these hazards as far as possible so that the chances of their facing an accidental death will be reduced," she said.

The same principle applies to special policies that cover the insured when he travels, Dailey said.

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Christmas Program At Red Oak Baptist Church

There will be a Christmas program at Red Oak Baptist Church in Oakville on Sunday, Dec. 21, 1975 at 7:30 p.m.

The children and youth departments of the church will be participating with the Junior (Crusader) Choir providing the music. Following the program the Adult Choir will present a cantata entitled, "A Song Was Born", by Joe E. Parks, and will be directed by Mrs. Peggy Rogers and Mrs. Sylvia Fleshman accompanist. Mrs. Shirley Moore will sing the solo part and Mr. Floyd Fleshman will narrate the cantata. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the program with Santa Claus on hand to talk to the children. The public is invited to attend.

photo by Shearer Robertson

Resident Enjoyed 100th Birthday Celebration

A birthday celebration was given on November 23 for Lemon Henry Hicks of 629 Seine Street in Lynchburg where he lives with his daughters.

A former employee of Norfolk and Western Railroad and a retired farmer, Lemon Hicks was born September 23, 1875, in Bedford County.

He married the late Selina D. Cheatham of Appomattox County, who was teaching in Bedford County at that time, he moved to Appomattox County in 1917.

The Hicks were blessed with a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters. Five children are living.

Hicks' wife died in 1943, and in 1949 he moved to Nelson County to live with his two daughters, Mrs. R. M. Thompson and Miss Emma Hicks.

In 1966 the R. M. Thompsons away from direct heat or sunlight. Before gloves are completely dry, work them onto hands to soften and reshape them. If dry, re-moisten gloves in a damp towel before refinishing them in the same way.

Acrylics and blends and cotton gloves are generally machine washable and dryable, unless instructions state to the contrary. Wools should be hand washed and allowed to dry before stretching back into shape. Do not rub wools; this can cause pilling, matting or shrinking.

Since man-made fiber gloves such as vinyl may be fur-lined for warmth, simply wash the outside with a sudsy cloth. Fur cannot be washed.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Angel Flake Biscuits

1 package yeast
2 tablespoon water
2 cups buttermilk
3 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
5 cups flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon soda
¾ cup shortening

Dissolve yeast in water. Mix yeast mixture with buttermilk, sugar and salt. Set aside. Mix flour, baking powder and soda together.

Cut in shortening. Add liquid ingredients. Mix lightly. Don't knead. Refrigerate overnight. Pinch off amount as needed. Knead, roll, cut and bake. Don't allow to rise. Bake at 450° for 10 minutes.

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Receives Mozetta J. Price Scholarship

Miss Virginia A. Berkley of Rt. 1, Pamplin, is the recent recipient of the Mozella J. Price Scholarship.

Miss Berkley is currently doing cadet teaching at Appomattox County High School, teaching U. S. Government and U. S. History under Mr. Henry Battle and Coach George Blanton.

Miss Berkley is a senior from St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Va., and a History major. She will complete requirements in December for graduation.

She has been active in college activities as well as community activities.

Miss Berkley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Berkley, Sr. of Rt. 1, Pamplin, and the eldest of five children. She is a member of the Gravel Hill Baptist Church where she is a member of the choir. She says that her student teaching has been a challenging experience and she looks forward to entering professional teaching.

Saurs Receive Award

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Saurs is married to the former Rosetta Stanley of Appomattox, Va. They have two daughters and a son and reside at 1900 Parma Road, Richmond, Va.)

RICHMOND - Mark W. Saurs, the president of the Virginia Savings and Loan League, has been presented the outstanding service award by the Virginia Council on Economic Education.

The award, which was given to Saurs today during the annual meeting of the Virginia Council on Economic Education, is presented annually to a outstanding Council member who has contributed his time to further economic education in Virginia, especially among school administrators and teachers.

Saurs is the chairman of the board of the Virginia Council of Economic Education, and is vice president of the Virginia Ballet Theatre. He is also a member of the Virginia Education Loan Authority, the West Richmond Kiwanis Club, the Virginia Society of Association Executives, the Richmond and Virginia Chambers of Commerce, the American Society of Association Executives and Savings Association Trade Executives.

Saurs is a graduate of Washington and Lee University where he earned the bachelor of arts degree and the bachelor of laws degree.

In addition to Saurs' award, four Richmond public school teachers were also recognized during the Council's meeting for their contributions to economic education by writing and teaching classroom lessons on economics.

A first place award in the contest, sponsored by the Public Utilities Association of Virginia, was presented to Miss Linda Cooke, a teacher at J. R. Tucker High School. Second place awards were presented to Mrs. Carolyn Lunsford, a teacher at Henrico's Hermitage Middle School; Mrs. Sallie Thompson, a teacher at Henderson Middle School in Richmond; and Miss Anne Vaden, a teacher at Hermitage Middle School. On the college level, C. B. Dix, professor of distributive education at Madison College, received first place award for his classroom lectures on economics, and Alain H. Sheer, assistant professor of economics at Virginia Commonwealth University, received second place in the college category.

Christmas Concert To Be Held At Central Methodist Church Sat. Night

The Campbell County Chorus will present a concert of choral music, most of which will be in keeping with the Christmas season, Saturday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Central United Methodist Church in Rustburg.

The public is cordially invited to attend. The concert will last approximately 40 minutes and there will also be a short period of audience participation Christmas carol singing.

The County Chorus was organzed last January by the Campbell County Recreation Department and is under the direction of Mrs. Janice Smith. The accompanist for the group is Ms. Leah Huffman. The group has performed for many functions throughout the county during the past year, and has also given a concert in Roanoke and at the Lynchburg Training School Hospital.

Anyone interested in joining this choral group is invited to come to the regular rehearsals held each Tuesday evening at 7:30 at the Central United Methodist Church in Rustburg. For further information, call the Campbell County Recreation Department.

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